

Message Text

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70

ACTION SS-30

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FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 36*0

S E C R E T USNATO 0306

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, XF, NATO

SUBJ: BRIEFING NATO ON MIDDLE EAST DEVELOPMENTS

REF: EXDIS USNATO 0269

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM RUMSFELD

1. ALLIES WERE UNANIMOUS IN EXPRESSING THEIR CONGRATULATIONS TO YOU FOR YOUR SUCCESSFUL EFFORTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST. THEY UNDERSTAND AND APPRECIATE REASONS WHY IT WASN'T POSSIBLE FOR YOU OR ONE OF YOUR PARTY TO BRIEF THE COUNCIL ON YOUR RETURN FROM THE MIDDLE EAST. AT THE SAME TIME THEY CONTINUE TO EXPRESS INTEREST IN HAVING OFFICIAL INFORMATION FROM US BEYOND THAT PROVIDED IN MY BRIEFING THAT WILL PUT REPORTS FROM OTHER SOURCES INTO PERSPECTIVE.

2. WHILE NOTHING COULD FULLY SATISFY THE ALLIES AT THIS TIME EXCEPT A BRIEFING BY YOU OR JOE SISCO, I THINK AN ADEQUATE INTERIM SUBSTITUTE WOULD BE ANOTHER BRIEFING BY ME AT WHICH I WOULD GIVE TO THE ALLIES INSTRUCTED ANSWERS TO THE QUESTIONS THEY POSED AT THE JANUARY 18 BRIEFING (REFTEL), ADDITIONAL INSIGHTS AS CAN BE PROVIDED AND NEW INFORMATION ON DEVELOPMENTS SINCE THAT TIME.

3. TO LIGHTEN BURDEN ON YOU AND YOUR KEY MIDDLE EAST EXPERTS, IT SEEMS TO ME THAT, IN ADDITION TO THE ANSWERS TO THE ALLIES' QUESTIONS, COPIES OF REPORTS OF YOUR RECENT TALKS WITH THE BRITISH AND OTHERS, AND AUTHORIZATION TO DRAW UPON THEM, MIGHT
SECRET

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CONSITUTE SUFFICIENT INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUCH A BRIEFING.

4. A COUNCIL BRIEFING WHERE THE SAME INFORMATION IS PRESENTED TO ALL IS GENERALLY USEFUL, AND PARTICULARLY SO TO THE SMALLER

ALLIES, WHOSE WASHINGTON AMBASSADOR YOU MAY NOT BE ABLE TO
FIT INTO THE SCHEDULE THIS WEEK.

5. REQUEST INSTRUCTIONS.
RUMSFELD

SECRET

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